

University College London  
Department of Physics



Opening of the  
**Mullard Space Science  
Laboratory**

HOLMBURY ST. MARY · DORKING · SURREY

by Dr. F. E. Jones F.R.S.

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WEDNESDAY 3rd MAY 1967

**Programme**

# Programme

**14.00 hrs.**      Guests assemble Holmbury House,  
Holmbury St. Mary.

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**14.30 hrs.**      Introduction to the work of the Laboratory by  
Professor R. L. F. Boyd, Head of the Mullard  
Space Science Laboratory.

Formal opening of Mullard Space Science  
Laboratory, University College  
by Dr. F. E. Jones F.R.S.,  
Managing Director, Mullard Ltd.

In the Chair, Professor Sir Harrie Massey F.R.S.,  
Quain Professor of Physics University  
College London.

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**15.00 hrs.**      Tour of the Laboratory.

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**16.00 hrs.**      Tea.

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**16.45 hrs.**      End of proceedings at Holmbury House.

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**19.30 hrs. for** Dinner at University College,  
**20.00 hrs.**      Gower Street, London W.C.1.  
Guests assemble in Men's Senior Common Room.

# Space Research at University College London

BY **PROFESSOR SIR HARRIE MASSEY, F.R.S.**

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Scientific space research in this country began in 1953 when plans were prepared for the development of a small sounding rocket to carry into the upper atmosphere instruments built by a number of University groups. Prominent amongst these was the group in the Department of Physics at University College led by Professor R.L.F. Boyd, who now heads the new Mullard Space Science Laboratory. This group played a pioneering role in the British space research programme and was responsible for two thirds of the experiments in Ariel I, the first Anglo-American satellite. The group has since had experiments in two NASA Explorer satellites, and future experiments will be carried in no less than eight satellites and many more high altitude rockets over the next four years.

The main investigations are in the fields of ultra-violet and X-ray astronomy both of the Sun and of other celestial objects, and in the study of the ionosphere, the magnetosphere and the interplanetary medium. While the primary aim of the experiments is to increase the fundamental knowledge of the world around us, the findings are expected to have a bearing on such widely different spheres as satellite communications and space travel.

Following the success of the experiments in Ariel I the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the U.S.A. has provided facilities for satellite experiments comparable with those given to American universities. Sounding rocket flights con-



tinue to be provided through the Ministry of Technology and the Woomera Range in Australia, and it is certain that the Mullard Space Science Laboratory will be one of the largest users of the satellite and rocket facilities now being built up by the European Space Research Organisation. The high cost of the experimental techniques has meant that University College is able to find only a minor part of the financial support necessary and the major costs are met by a grant from the Science Research Council.

With the growth of the group over the past ten years there has developed a pressing need for more laboratory space and recently with the generous help of Mullard Limited it became possible to establish an out-station at Holmbury St. Mary where it is expected the group will grow to about eighty people by 1970.

*Holmbury House  
Dorking, Surrey*



*University College  
London, W.C.1*